(a) whether Government have constituted a Council to regulate physiotherapy;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that such persons who have obtained bachelor's degree or master's degree after successfully completing four and half-years course in physiotherapy have been allowed to prefix 'Doctor' to their name?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government is in the process of introducing a comprehensive Bill to regulate certain para-medical professions including physiotherapy. A Council for physiotherapists will be constitute once the relevant legislation comes into force.

(c) No, Sir.

Typhoid kit

131. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DRDO has developed a kit for Typhoid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mass production of this kit has been started; and

(d) if so, by when the kit is going to be distributed to various hospitals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) DRDO has reported that the Organisation has developed a kit for Typhoid. This kit is based on antigen detection and diagnosis is achieved within 1-3 minutes. The kit is suitable for use in field. Each kit carries regents to perform 30 tests. No special training is required to use the kit. The regent is highly sensitive, specific and is stable at 4^0C for more than 9 months. DRDO has transferred the technology to M/s Xcyton Diagnostics Limited, Bangalore and the kit is proposed to be launched by mid August, 2004.